

French Regain 100 Villages From foe

Continued from Page One Allied forces, this time, are the gainers. It is the German line that has given way. Nearly 600 square miles of territory have been added to the Allies' holdings.

Although there was general rejoicing today over the success of the Allies' push, experts were inclined to discount the justification for undue optimism.

They pointed out that the German retreat was not a headlong flight, but a methodical, systematic turning back from untenable positions to others doubtless long and carefully prepared.

The retreat has undoubtedly been accelerated by the Allies' unexpected superiority—unexpected to the Germans. They have surprised the enemy with the vigor of their pursuit.

But the lack of reports of any considerable losses of men and materials by the Germans indicates the withdrawal was far from a disorderly retreat.

There was much guessing here today as to the new line to which the Germans are retreating. The one most favored by military experts was from Douai to Cambrai, La Fere and Soissons. Observers here do not think the Germans will permit the Allies to gain the approaches to the valleys of the Sambre and the Scarpe without strenuously contesting their advance.

Today the Allies were systematically consolidating their lines and still pressing steadily against the Germans. On the whole front of seven miles, along which the great push developed the gains, the British and French forces have taken about seventy miles, towns and villages. At some places the thrust forward has carried the Allied troops ten miles into territory formerly occupied by the Germans.

The great importance attached to the German retreat is their possible evacuation of Lens, north of Arras. Lens is not only a railroad center of strategic value, but is the center of the coal and iron deposits of northern France. The capture of these deposits would add materially to the munition output of France.

BERLIN, March 19. French trenches on the Verdun front were a width of 508 yards were captured by the Germans in storm attacks yesterday afternoon, the War Office announced today. Eight French officers and 485 men were taken. Counter-attacks by the French during the night were repulsed. There was violent fighting on both sides of the Meuse river. Near the north bank and in areas there has been lively fighting activity.

The War Office again admitted a general retreat between Arras and the Aisne (Somme front), saying that the British made no strong attacks and followed in a "hesitant" manner. The official statement, detailing the German retreat, said in part: Our actions in protecting our troops by peripatetic, energetic conduct of the evacuation cast a veil over the abandonment of our positions and the departure of our troops.

In the abandoned district means of communication useful for the enemy have been destroyed. Part of the population, provided with food for five days, was left. Yesterday near the coast and on the Artois front, also on both banks of the Meuse, there was lively fighting activity.

BERLIN ADMITS BIG RETIREMENT IN WEST BERLIN, March 19.—Systematic retirement of the German troops between Arras and the Oise, on the front in France, is announced by the War Office. Peronne, Royon, Bapaume, Roye and several other

WAR MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST



The dotted line indicates the British front before the present general retirement of the Germans from Arras to Soissons began. The solid black line shows the present British front. The Germans probably will halt their retreat on a line running parallel with the railway lines connecting Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin, La Fere and the territory opposite Soissons. These railroads connect important branches of the railway system of which Lille and Lens are the chief centers, and which constitute the life lines of the Germans in northern France. Should the French seize the Douai-Cambrai-St. Quentin-La Fere line, or make it untenable for their enemies, the Germans would most likely be forced to retreat clear to the Belgian frontier. In their present retirement the Germans have added ten miles to the distance between their nearest point and Paris. They are now about sixty miles from Paris at La Fere and about fifty miles from the Belgian frontier at their farthest point of invasion.

towns have been abandoned by the Germans. The statement follows: Between Arras and the Oise the British and French, in a strip of land systematically abandoned by us, occupied our former positions and several towns, among which are Bapaume, Peronne, Roye and Noyon. Our protecting troops inflicted considerable losses on the enemy and then gave way, as had been ordered.

On the right bank of the Meuse two French companies made an attack at dawn on a trench sector captured by us on March 16 north of Chambrettes farm. The attack failed. On Combrais height and near Maisey, north of St. Mihiel, storming detachments entered the French positions and returned with prisoners.

"Tonight's official report says that, 'in the strip of land between Arras and the Aisne, voluntarily evacuated by us, only in some places are our protecting groups in fighting touch with the hostile cavalry and infantry.'"

"On both sides of the Meuse," the statement adds, "fighting activity is marked."

BRITISH ARMY PURSUES FOE WITHOUT DELAY

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES AFIELD, March 19. Never was an army happier than that of England today as its men pressed forward, unceasingly horing in to make the gains the greatest any army has achieved in two whole years of fighting on the western front.

The speed of the British "push" is best illustrated by the fact that at several points British cavalry have had their long-sought-for opportunity of going into action—and they went in against the fleeing Germans at a trot.

The German retreat beyond the battlefields of the Somme began slowly. Today it had developed into pursuit at full cry, over a trail marked by ruthless use of the

torch by the retreating Germans and at least one instance of poisoning of wells. This one instance was at Barleux. There British army surgeons discovered quantities of poison in the well.

With the fall of Bapaume—predicted in these dispatches last Thursday—the German retreat widened and received a new backward impetus. The fine rying weather of the last three days also proved a boon to the pursuers.

Every moment of the time since the movement began the British have harassed the enemy. They have not given the enemy a chance to rest. The pressure has been continuous.

The whole Aisne and Somme area was today the scene of the most intense activity. The whole army is ablaze with enthusiasm.

A lone battalion due to be relieved, just before Bapaume fell. They declined to leave the battlefield and stuck around like cabdrivers on a holiday. Prior to the fall of Bapaume I saw British cavalry moving toward the line at a fast trot, but it was not then thought they would get a chance so soon.

At that time Bapaume, once the great goal of the British push, was strangely silent, except for the occasional shriek of an oncoming German shell.

Now the khaki-clad troops have already progressed far beyond its ruins.

NAVAL COE'RS AT PRINCETON Undergraduates to Aid in Protection of Atlantic Coast

PRINCETON, N. J., March 19.—A naval corps, for the protection of the Atlantic coast, is being established at Princeton, under the direction of Lieutenant Commander Marion Epley, U. S. N., a graduate of the university, and Lieutenant Austin Munn, U. S. N. Opportunities will be given the undergraduates to train three months in the course of four years. They will be held under no obligation and may resign in time of peace.

Russian Jews Win Full Citizen Rights

Continued from Page One tical prisoners at Baku and exhorted his soldiers to continue to obey their lawful chiefs. He urged them "to defend their country and support Russia's allies in this unprecedented struggle."

The message which Foreign Minister M. Milukoff sent to all diplomatic representatives of Russia in foreign lands is looked upon here as a cornerstone of the new Government's structure.

"The Government cannot forget for a single instant the grave external circumstances in which it assumes power," the message said. "Russia did not will the war which has been drenching Europe in blood for nearly three years. She will fight by their (the Allies) side against the common enemy until the end, without cessation and without faltering."

M. Milukoff's communication to the diplomats also cleared up materially the exact status of the present Government, and the Grand Duke Michael's connection with it. The new Government will exist only until

a general assembly of 600 duly representative citizens can be elected. These will decide Russia's future course—whether the great nation is to be a republic, fashioned after the United States of America or avail itself of the Grand Duke's offer to accept the throne, subsequent always to the will of the people.

CHURCH WITH REVOLUTION All traces of the old and hated autocracy are fast disappearing. The churches have been stripped of their regal insignia and the names of the Czar and his family eliminated from the orthodox prayers. "Great Russia and her rulers have been substituted in their stead. The royal coat of arms has been taken from all buildings and private homes. Pictures of the former royal family are being destroyed.

Next to the overthrow of the Czar the removal of the Emperor's chair from the synod's first session is the most dramatic event that could happen in Russia, for it means a revolution in the chief bulwark of czarism, the Orthodox Church of Russia. The synod is the highest authority in that Church. The influence of the Church on the Russian peasant masses is enormous, for the moujik is still deeply religious. His attitude to the Czar was largely a religious attitude. The new government's control of the synod is, therefore, of vital import to its success.

As a matter of fact one of the most powerful elements of the overthrown Government was Piltirin, the Petrograd metropolitan. Next to Rasputin he was the most influential member of the dark forces in the court of Nicholas II. Together with Sturmer and Protopopoff he plotted against the Allies.

It is consequently of great significance that the chief dignitaries of the Church should side with the popular cause. The first session of the synod under the new regime took place under the presidency of the Kiev metropolitan. The latter has been one of the most enlightened and broad-minded members of the Orthodox Church. He would undoubtedly know how to fulfill the wishes of the new government in such a manner as to strengthen the new political order with the superstitious peasantry.

BERLIN SEES FAILURE OF RUSSIAN REVOLT

BERLIN, March 19 (by wireless). Germany is not sure the Russian revolution will be able to survive in the face of the Russian people's demand for bread.

High circles today were frank in stating their opinion that the revolution was distinctly an aid to England and the Entente. The old Government has been suspected of

a desire to make a separate peace. But the new Foreign Minister, Millukoff, is known here as England's friend. He and all other members of the Cabinet are known to favor continuation of the war.

These German officials suggested today that, in view of the fact that the Russian Socialists favor an immediate peace, there is likely to be another revolution against the revolutionists—started by the workmen. Unrest of this class of the people is predicted by close students of Russian affairs here, doubt being expressed that the new regime will be able to give the people bread. It was precisely this pinch of hunger which, in the main, caused the first revolution.

Berlin newspaper comment today expressed disbelief that a country rent with internal fights can successfully advance in military fashion against its foes. Most of Russia's strength, it was stated, probably will be consumed in the battle for control of the governing power.

Cops Oppose Pension Bill Changes

WILMINGTON, Del., March 19.—Members of the Wilmington police force will send a strong delegation to fight the proposed amendments to the police pension bill which are before the Legislature. At present any member who has served twenty-five years may go upon the pension list. Under the proposed plan no man could go on the list until he was fifty-five years old and no one could draw a pension until the fund amounts to \$200,000.

PLACE BIRD SANCTUARIES Hundreds Erected in Philadelphia on Suburban Estates

Boy Scouts of the Philadelphia organization yesterday completed the erection of several hundred bird sanctuaries. They have been placed throughout the city on the grounds of estates of prominent Philadelphians who reside in the suburbs.

Among the latter place are those of Dr. Benjamin Wilkison, Jr., Schuykill River estate; Lafayette, near Chestnut Hill Park; George Wharton Pepper, Media; Francis V. Lloyd, Belmont, Pa.; Clark Thompson, Rocky Spring Farm, Media, Pa.; Howard Wood, Schuykill River opposite Spring Meadow, Pa.; Richard M. Cadwalader, Skippen Pike; S. P. Houston estate, Lafayette, and others. Sanctuaries also have been erected at the instance of Roy Smith Wallace of the Seybert Institute Farm, near Meadowbrook.

TERRIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN RICH & POOR FORETOLD

Dr. Benjamin Wilkison Will Show in Lecture at Parkway Auditorium Tonight That Prophets Saw Deadly Struggle Coming



Benjamin Wilkison, Ph. D.

The second series of week-night meetings in the Parkway Auditorium (formerly Odd Fellows' Hall), on Broad street near Arch, will begin tonight with an illustrated lecture in which Doctor Wilkison will describe the coming war between the capitalist and workingman as predicted by the ancient prophet. He will show that the harding up of gold with a corresponding pressure put on the men that do the work is in harmony with what the Bible said would happen in the last days. That we have reached the period of earth's history in which the strife in the industrial world is to reach its climax will be proved from the Scriptures. "Omens of the coming storm," said Mr. Wilkison when interviewed, "are seen all about us, and indicate that this is one of the greatest signs of the soon return of Christ."

Doctor Wilkison's subject Tuesday evening will be "Has the War Proved That Christianity is a Failure?" The meetings are free.—Adv.

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